Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the restriction requirement in that the election of group XIII be extended to groups I, XXI, XXV and XXXIII as well. The claims of groups I, XIII, XXI, XXV and XXXIII are identically classified (class 424, subclass 198.1). Thus, it is not believed to be burdensome for the Office to examine claims of these groups in the same application.

For the same reasons, Applicants further request that: 1) groups II, X, XIV, XXII, XXVI and XXXIV be recombined into one group; 2) groups III, VII, XV, XIX, XXIII, XXVII, XXXI, and XXXV be recombined into one group; 3) groups IV, VIII, XII, XVI, XX, XXIV, XXVIII, XXXII and XXXVI be recombined into one group; 4) groups V, XVII and XXIX be recombined into one group; and 5) groups VI, XVIII and XXX be recombined into one group.

Preliminary Amendment

Preliminary to the examination of the above-captioned application, please amend the application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-22 without any prejudice and disclaimer.

Please add new claims 23-33 as follows.

23. (New) A method for preventing or treating male erectile dysfunction or female sexual arousal disorder, which method comprises administering to a mammal to whom such prevention or treatment is needed or desirable, an effective amount of brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) or a functional derivative or fragment thereof, thereby preventing or treating said male erectile dysfunction or female sexual arousal disorder in said mammal.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the mammal is a human and the BDNF, or a functional derivative or fragment thereof, is of human origin.

25. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the BDNF, or a functional derivative or fragment thereof, is administered by intracavernous injection, subcutaneous injection, intravenous injection, intramuscular injection, intradermal injection, or topical administration.

26. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the BDNF, or a functional derivative or fragment thereof, is administered via a liposome.

27. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the male erectile dysfunction is erectile dysfunction induced by or secondary to nerve dysfunction, arterial insufficiency, venous leakage, hormonal insufficiency, drug use, surgery, chemotherapy or radiation.

28. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the female sexual arousal disorder is sexual dysfunction induced by or secondary to nerve dysfunction, arterial insufficiency, hormonal insufficiency, drug use, surgery, chemotherapy, or radiation.

29. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the BDNF, or a functional derivative or fragment thereof, is administered in an amount sufficient to improve blood flow and regenerate nerve and smooth muscle in the clitoris and vaginal wall.

30. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the BDNF, or a functional derivative or fragment thereof, is administered in a cream or via injection to the clitoris and vaginal wall of the patient.

31. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the BDNF, or a functional derivative or fragment thereof, is administered by intracavernous injection.

32. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the BDNF, or a functional derivative or fragment thereof, is administered at about 10-200 mcg/70 Kg body weight about once every two to six months.

33. (New) The method of claim 23, further comprising administering an effective amount of vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) or a functional derivative or fragment thereof.

Upon entry of the present Preliminary Amendment, claims 23-33 will be pending. Support for new claims 23-33 can be found throughout the application and, *inter alia*, in the original claims 1-22. Therefore, the above-described amendments do not introduce any new matter into the present application.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this

document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing 220022001600. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: Oct. 18, 2002 By: _____

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